

Executive Registry
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The following is the gist of Mr. McCone's conversation with you this morning regarding his confirmation hearing.

"I have been thinking about this confirmation hearing and I am preparing independently any questions that I think might be asked of me concerning my affairs and various things but it is quite possible that that hearing might be used to develop my general philosophy on our Agency and on our activities. I would like to have Mr. Kirkpatrick, and possibly the people in General Counsel ~~should~~ do this, review the transcripts of hearings over the past three or four years to develop any trend of thinking that might have evolved on the part of particular Senators through their questioning and discussions with Mr. Dulles and others. I am thinking, for example, of a position that maybe some Senator might have taken questioning clandestine operations or covert operations. I am thinking of the position that Dworshak has always taken that the building and substantial housing of people in Washington was all wrong, that foreign intelligence was a foreign operation and all the people should be abroad. There also may be some positions with respect to the legislative purposes of the law, and also this coordinating function, etc. I do not want this in a book two inches thick because you can take the position of Dworshak and give it to me in five pages or one paragraph, but if I am flagged and know about it, I can handle it. All too often these things get too long. I would like it done as promptly as possible. I do not think that it should involve defense or opinions on matters such as Cuba, Indonesia, the U-2, or anything like that. I can just say that I was not familiar with that and cannot comment. But if they bring up a question, for example, that it is well known that CIA supports X foundation which engages in this, asking, "Do you favor this? This seems to be truly an un-American way of doing things." -- this is the kind of thing I want to do. What I want is philosophical trends rather than verbatims.

"I want it for my own background in talking with people and for use in the hearing, and I may also want to plant (or ~~"plan"~~ ~~neither Allee nor I was sure which word he said~~) some questions -- there is the broad question of whether CIA has in the final analysis directed policy. This is brought up in Tully's book, and will be coming up more times once the book is circulated."

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BLP (29 Dec 61)

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